**Report on The Unveiling of the First AI Mental Health Support for Amputees and PWDs, Abuja FCT Nigeria, April 12, 2025.**

By NYUYDINE Jacqueline BANFOGHA

The event was aimed at bridging the mental health gap between Amputees and Persons with disabilities, PWDs. Two leading PWDs organisations, Hope Alive for Possibilities Initiative (HAPI) and Cesar Seed Foundation (CSF) answered present as well as DRELA Cameroun represented by Mrs NYUYDINE Jacqueline BANFOGHA, Leprosy Mission Nigeria and Sight Savers Nigeria.

This unveiling project focused on Artificial Intelligence, AI, and mental health support. There was the official launch of the AI Chatbot and mental health support for Amputees and PWDs Project. This project was designed to address the psychological needs of Amputees and PWDs through the use of AI support system.

The participants présent included, disability advocates, mental health professionals, government representatives, development partners, amputees and PWDs. At the heart of the project was a state of the art AI Chatbot designed using advanced Natural Language Processing (NLP). The chatbot will feature, interactive storytelling, mode tracking, and gamified user experiences all tailored to help amputees and other PWDs to process their emotions, manage trauma and build resilience.

Ave Akighir, Executive Director of HAPI in her remarks emphasized on the urgent need for the project given the increase in the population of amputees in Nigeria. She said this isn't just about technology but more about healing, empowerment and providing a sense of companionship to those who are often abandoned or neglected.

According to Mme Louise Awa, Executive Director of CEDAR Seed Foundation, technology is the order of the day and so PWDs cannot be left out. She said the AI chatbot is a movement aimed at ensuring that the voices of amputees and PWDs are heard, their pain triumphs. She called on government agencies, technology innovators, donor partners and disability champions to support the project from the planning through to execution. If technology can drive democracy and hold government accountable, then surely it can be used to help the most vulnerable people in the community.

Esther Bature of Sight Savers appreciated the initiative and said that the AI chatbot will be the listening ear when people are unavailable, provide comfort and strength in solitude and empower PWDs to rise with confidence.

**Call to Action:**

The unveiling of the AI chatbot project underscores a larger call to action for technology to be leveraged intentionally to serve the needs of the most marginalized population in our community. The project will ensure that no amputee or PWD walls the journey of mental health alone.

**Conclusion:**

The AI chatbot is more than innovation. It is inclusion, healing and hope.